

Letters: Ellen Hutchins and Dawson Turner - 1809

The original letters are held by the Wren Library of Trinity College Cambridge (seventy letters from Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner between 1807 and 1814) and the Library and Archives of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London (fifty letters from Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins).

This is the third year of the correspondence. There are ten letters from Ellen in 1809 and there are twelve letters from Dawson Turner.

The preparation of transcriptions of the correspondence is a project of the Ellen Hutchins Festival, Bantry, Ireland. The 1809 letters were completed* in 2024 by Madeline Hutchins, Co-Director of the Festival, researcher on Ellen, and her great-great-grandniece. The Festival acknowledges the huge contribution made by Professor Michael Mitchell of NUI, Galway in transcribing forty letters in his publication for Glasnevin in 1999 - *Early Observations on the Flora of Southwest Ireland: selected letters of Ellen Hutchins and Dawson Turner 1807 - 1814*.

Work on seven years of the correspondence has now been completed - 1807 to 1809 and 1811 to 1814 with the transcriptions shared on the website - www.ellenhutchins.com Transcription of the last remaining year - 1810 - is expected to be completed by the beginning of February 2025.

The Festival thanks the Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge and the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London for permission to use the transcriptions/letters. Permission to use this material elsewhere needs to be sought from the Ellen Hutchins Festival - email: ellenhutchins200@icloud.com / Trinity College Cambridge / Kew.

*a few last words remain as puzzles, mostly from very faded text. This is version 3 of the PDF - and a new version will be put online if/when some of the 'last words' are solved. And an apology: the original and version 2 both had a significant section of one letter missing (DT to EH 14th June) and the name Clemente (botanist) in wrongly as Clementi, with a few lines in Spanish missing (DT to EH 12th September). These are corrected / included here now. MH 11/12/24

Letter 1

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 7th January

My dear Madam

The letter that I had the pleasure of receiving from you in the middle of last month crossed one of mine upon the road, which I sent off on 5th December under cover to my friend, Captain Mangin, availing myself of that opportunity to convey to you a few of our scarce mosses. I have since been so fortunate as to meet with a person of this neighbourhood who was going in a few weeks to Dublin & I put up, though in some haste,

a parcel of some of our scarcest English plants, which he promised to deliver to Mr Mackay. I shall be very much gratified to hear of it reaching you in safety, for, though it is not what I wished it to be, yet I am convinced it contains a few things that will be acceptable to you. You will find in it all the British Fuci that you mentioned to me you are wanting excepting *F. selaginoides*, which is little, if anything, more than *F. tamariscifolius* in a dwarf state & without vesicles. I took the liberty of adding to the parcel a copy of my paper in the last volume of the Linnean Transactions, but unaccompanied, I am sorry to say, by the plates, which I have not yet received; & with it Mrs Grant's Letters from the Mountains, which, if you have previously got them, I beg you to give to any friend of yours, & the Translation of Sprengel's Introduction to Cryptogamic Botany, which, being new, I trust you have not seen. You will find in it a good deal of information, but I cannot accede to all his ideas upon the genera of mosses. I ought to apologise to you for having sent you the copies of these books that were on my own shelves, but really I cannot help it, for I had no time to get others, & the opportunity of conveying to you a parcel was too golden a one to be lost. In talking thus much about my own parcel I have almost forgotten to thank you for yours which is of much greater value. It has reached me quite safe; & has delighted me in the extreme. I cannot tell you how gratified I am with every new proof of your zeal for our favourite science & of your kindness to me. I am also extremely gratified with your account of your own health. I was so anxious to read of this that I tore open your letter in haste disregarding (or rather not seeing) the caution on the outside, & I have irreparably lost the small Zoophyte it contained. The moss is safe, & I will examine it & give my opinion (such as it is) of it on the other side, where I will also tell you all I can of the doubtful contents of your parcel. To have myself room for this I am sorry to say I must now conclude; which I do, wishing most sincerely that the year 1809 & many succeeding years may be productive to you of health & happiness, as far as happiness is compatible with such imperfect beings as we all are. I remain ever dear Madam your very much obliged
Dawson Turner Yarmouth 7th January 1809

I begin with the marine plants of your parcel received last spring which I am ashamed to find I have yet noticed, I hope you have not forgotten the numbers.

Variation of *F. pygmaeus* ? – This is a plant that has long puzzled me, but I incline to think it is only what you suppose it. Acharius has described it as a lichen, under the name of *Stereocaulon affine*.

**C. atrovirens* ? – not so, but nearer to Dillwyn's *C. fontinalis*, from which it seems principally to differ in being branched.

Ulva No 2 & 3 these are very extraordinary plants. – I cannot satisfy myself if they are distinct, and if one or both of them or neither are the same as Vaucher has published as *Ulva foetida*. –

No 7 – *Ulva plantaginea* of Roth.

*8 – *Conferva atropurpurea* of Roth

*9 new to me

Conferva No *24 – new species

*25 – *Conferva riparia* of Roth

*26 – This has the appearance of being a beautiful and extraordinary species; but it is so difficult to get it off the paper & it recovers so imperfectly, that, till you can supply me

with specimens on glass, & a magnified sketch or description of its recent appearance, nothing can be said of it.

27. This is in much the same state as the last – may it not be *C genuflexa*?

28. I think this must be a variety of *C sordida*.

29. *C Turnerii*, young – I doubt it is the same as *C plumosa* & that I must give it up.

*30. This beautiful parasite is new to me, but I must trouble you by & by for a sketch of it – it recovers badly.

*31 - One of the most beautiful things I ever saw; &, as far as I know, quite new.

I have put asterisks to those of which I am unreasonable enough to wish for more at some future time. –

I wish if you do not feel any objection, that you would favour me with a complete catalogue of the plants of all kinds that you have found in your neighbourhood, annexing the particular habitats to such as are at all uncommon. It would be a valuable accession to our local knowledge of British plants & the Linnean Society would be very thankful for it. If I sent it to them I would by your leave to add some remarks upon & descriptions of your new *Confervae* – May I beg, at your leisure, you would gather me a few more larger specimens of *F articulatus*? One of your plants is engraved for my *Historia Fucorum*.

I find with regret that what I have to say upon your last parcel but one has completely filled my time before the post & my paper. I therefore reserve the whole I have still to say upon the last parcel till my next, which, if nothing interrupts me, I will send off by tomorrow's post, & then, I fear you will be rather tired of me & be glad I have done writing. If the letter sent you through Captain Mangin has not reached you pray let me know.

Letter 2

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 8th Jan

I am pretty well in the habit of beginning my letters with apologies, but I don't recollect ever having before had occasion to apologise for writing too frequently. Now, however, I feel the necessity of so doing. I very fortuitously finished my letter this morning in a great hurry lest I should lose the post, and, thinking that I should have a great deal to say upon the contents of your last parcel, determined to leave myself a sheet clear for the purpose, but now that I come to the trial, my great deal proves to be the answer from the mountain. Let me in the first place thank you for your drawings, of which I should be sorry to say anything that might lead you to doubt any sincerity; but, most seriously, I admire their execution as well as prize them for the sake of the artist. You feel that your hand, like the Minstrel's, lacks 'the ease' that marks security to please; you will only be the more qualified at finding, like him, what approbation attends your endeavour. Your *F. tomentosus* will be very soon engraved. The others, I am sorry to say, seem doomed 'to blush unseen' in my portfolios, but they shall not be wholly lost. I trust you will not fail to cultivate this art, without which it is scarcely possible to study the *Confervae* with success; and you will find that the slightest pencil sketch in a letter will often convey a better idea than the most laboured description. Let me advise you also, if the trouble is not too much, to sketch the leaves of the mosses you examine under your microscope. It saves a prodigious deal of trouble. I only wish I could lend you my own copy of the *Muscologia*

Hibernica to copy what is there done. To return, however, to the proper subject of my letter.

Your beautiful vary of *H denticulatum* is the var B of my *Musc. Hib.* – do you know the operculum? –

Your *Dicranum allipticum* is *Grimmia Daviesii*, a very rare plant indeed: if you find plenty of it I will beg a good stock. Your doubtful moss found by an alpine lake is *Dicranum allipticum*. *Dicranum squarrosum*? – certainly right.

The little plant in a box appears to me the same as I suppose to be a new *Madepore*.

Jungermannia No 17. *Jung minutissima* certainly. What Mr Hooker frequently called so he now supposes to be *J pumila* with fruit, & he hopes you will find more of it.

No 18 *Jung curvifolia*, barren.

19. *J pauciflora* in a very fine state. – what you had named ‘*J palacea* in fruit’ is a fine vary of *J reptans*. You had called it so before.

Ulva purpurascens? Certainly right (but it ought to be called *U filiformis*, that being the older name). – have you not found this both full of gelatinous substance, & quite empty, except that it was inflated like a bladder? And have observed the smell only in this latter state. –

Ulva rubens – the larger brown plant sent under that name is *Rivularia vermiculata* of Eng. Bot. – is it not distinct? –surely *U elminthoides* is not so. –

Ulva compressa – your varieties of this are very curious. You will oblige me by collecting it in different gradations.

Ulva ligulata the smaller plant is what has been called *U rubra* but I agree with you that it is merely a variety.

Variety of *F bifidus*? If so different from any other I ever saw.

F ruscifolius & *F hypoglossum*? These too are appearances unlike mine.

Conferva No 1 I am sorry to say I still cannot see a specific character to separate it from *C diffusa*. Will you oblige me by a specimen or sketching the plant.

No 2 This, I agree with you is different from *C stricta* & is a beautiful new species.

No 5 – surely distinct enough from *C rosea* I have not a doubt upon the subject, though I cannot now tell the characters.

Is No 10 a variety of *C stricta*?

No 13 this is more like *C rosea* but I think it quite distinct.

No 18 & 19 – I agree with you they are probably the same.

21 how beautiful this be! May it be *C Hutchinsiae* – if I may, you must send me a great load of it, for I shall give it to everybody.

31 May I beg a sketch of this, however rough? – I cannot make out from my specimens its mode of growth – I have nicknamed it in my collection *C pharetrata*, from its resemblance in shape to a quiver.

32. – *Vaucheria geminata* of Eng. Bot.

33. – I know nothing of this. – I hope you will find more of it.

C fruticulosa – a very fine new species – let it keep its name.

Fucus No 10 I dare say you are right that it is only an appearance of *F fruticulosus*, but what can be more humiliating to one’s pride than not to know apart two so dissimilar plants as that & *F cristatus*?

No 11 I think it may be *F phyllitis*.

Ulva No 11. This is a nondescript species, which Mr Dillwyn at first found last year at the Isle of Wight, & means to publish in the *Linn. Trans.*

No 12. I dare say you are right in considering this different from *U rubens*, but a magnified sketch must determine it. Even specimen on glass can scarcely recover.

No 13 – This recovers itself imperfectly, but appears to be exactly the *Ulva fatida* of Vaucher.

The little moss in your letter I have examined carefully & think it a new species. It is own brother to *B carneum*, but differs strikingly in having the ends of its leaves acuminate by the nerve penetrating beyond them, the appearance so much so as to appear hair-pointed: this, I believe, is never the case in *B carneum*. Will you be able to get more of it? – Your observation upon the inflation of marine plants you will find noticed in the Hist. Fuc before I received your letter in a note to *F vesiculosus*. *Conf coccinea* is never found here, except with such capsules as Dillwyn has figured. I have specimens with lanceolate pods, but should be glad of more, & still more glad of a sketch. My plates of *dasyphyllus* & *kaliformis* are, as you justly observe, not happy. If *Bryum conoideum* be plentiful in your neighbourhood, I should be thankful for specimens. I beg so freely of you that I would fain hope I shall at last induce you to follow my example, & really I am convinced you have yourself such a pleasure in giving, that you should know that others have the same, & should therefore afford them the opportunity of indulging it, but you only give, you will not ask.

Believe me dear Madam

Your obliged & very faithful

Dawson Turner

Yarmouth 8th January 1809

Letter 3

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 21st January

For all your letters and all the information you so kindly give me, pray accept my warmest thanks. It is much more probable that you will be tired of answering my troublesome letters than that I should ever cease to feel the highest gratification in receiving yours. I should long since have answered your letter containing the mosses which I received above a month ago but that a few days after I wrote last to you I was attacked with a very severe illness from which I am now thank God recovering & tho' nearly free from pain I am much weaken'd. The mosses were a great treasure; they were all but two new to me. I had before seen *Grimmia acuta* & I found by your specimens that *Andraea Rothii* was what I took for *A rupestris* & that it is the only species of the genus I have met with. I have several mosses that I am doubtful of & some not described in Mus Hib of which I shall in a week or two when I am a little stronger send you specimens under cover of Captain Mangin. I have specimens & 6 drawings of beautiful minute *Confervae* that I did before my illness to send with them. I am very glad you liked the drawings. I hope to improve by practice. I felt so strongly the necessity of making use of the parcel that I determined to apply myself to drawing as much as my health would allow and have just procured a large store of drawing materials. I shall very willingly do any thing you wish for & have intended to send you sketches of all the new *Confervae* I met with, they recover so impressively. I began mosses too but have not been able to do much. When I send you the little parcel I shall send you a volume of answers to your observations and describe as well as I can what you seem to wish to know. Of every thing that you wish for more of I hope to be able during the course of next summer to supply you. Of the *Jungermanniae* I either have specimens or shall be able to get more. I thought the little *Bryum* distinct from *B carneum* which grows here, with which I have often compared it. I never saw much of it, however I can spare you many specimens. How glad am I of *G Daviesii*; if the mountains contain another bit of it I must have it. I am sure of a little more for you. How my spirit flies to the mountains

when my limbs will hardly bear me about I was going to say the plains, but we have none. We poor Irish often boast of what we have not.

The parcel you have sent to Mr Mackay for me I have not yet heard of but I am sure I shall in a few days. How much I thank you for it & for the inclination you show to contribute to my amusement. I shall highly value the books as your gift. Mrs Franks' Letters I had not long since very hastily run over having borrowed them from a friend who was just leaving the country. I could have given them much more time with pleasure. When I send the parcel I shall answer as fully as I am able your three last letters, how I have fill'd this sheet I know not. When I began I thought to write only a few lines, let me add one to say how much I feel My dear Sir your truly obliged

E Hutchins

Ballylickey

January 21st 1809

Letter 4

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 4th February

My dear Sir

I have at length made up the little parcel I promised you in my last letter. I hope it will reach you safely & that any thing it contains may be interesting to you. I could have sent you more specimens of some things you wished for but that I was afraid of making my parcel too large. I shall keep what I have until I can during the spring and summer add to them specimens of every thing you wish for. If you want more of any of the things I now send pray let me know in time. I shall take care to gather shells for you. Tho' our shores are all rocky and not as rich in shells as plants we have many more species taken up with the local coral sand in a perfect state, perhaps no one spot produces a better variety. Do you wish for many specimens of each species? I shall in some time be able to send you the Catalogue you wish for of all our plants. With the flowering plants of this neighbourhood I am pretty well acquainted, but I think I have yet much to discover in the sea plants and mosses. Of the lichens I am almost certainly ignorant. The list of all I have met with I can easily give' perhaps you would think it better to wait until I learn more. Do just as you please & pray make any use you like of the Confervae they are in truth as much or more yours than mine. I only found but you have to describe, connect and name them. I hope to be able to give you more of all you wish for and to send sketches. I am very uncertain about No 10. I am not sure that it is not a variety of *C stricta* which is a variable plant. No 8 is certainly a Var. of *stricta*. No ?15 is to be found plentifully in May. I hope you will find it distinct from *rosea*. Of No 21 I hope to find more. It is rare & though you should name it after me, I fear I shall not be able to send you a cart load. Of *fruticulosa* & some other new ones I can send you a cargo if you will but send a ship from Yarmouth. I have plenty of *Conferva riparia* also *paradoxa* is rare. No 24 is rare. No 26 is very beautiful, I fear I shall not be able to get it again until November when you shall have a magnified drawing. No 27 is to be found at the same season as the last & is not *C genuflexion*. The filaments are quite simple. I have not seen *genuflexa*. No 30 is plenty in summer richly ornamenting other plants. No 31 is a very rare little thing & in its mode of growth unlike any thing I ever saw. I never shall forget the pleasure I felt in observing its scarcity. I hope

to be able to send you a good likeness when I meet with it again. – I can give a little more of No 33. –

Of the Ulva No 2 & 3 are I think distinct species. No 2 preserves its recent appearance exactly in pressing. No 3 is much more gelatinous coarser and so tender that it breaks to pieces when touched.

It is extremely difficult to preserve. It grows in a thick tuft spreading circularly from the root. Its colour which changes in drying is when recent almost black. It would become colourless in two or three hours in fresh water. No 4 grows in immense quantity here. I can send you plenty next summer. I have opportunity of observing Ulva purpurescens from its first appearance to decay and have never yet found it in an inflated state. It has here even when very young an extremely disagreeable smell. Its growth is very rapid. Rivularia vermiculata is certainly distinct from Ulva rubens. I never saw any thing more beautiful than its magnified appearance. I am pretty sure Ulva eliminthoides is distinct from rubens & that U verticillata & another very beautiful plant I sent you marked No 6 & No 12 are all though nearly related distinct species. Of some of them I have now by me magnified sketches uncoloured which prove them distinct. I can if you like do them all for you next summer at least I can attempt to do them. In the examination of this family I felt great pleasure last summer and had them all at the same time fresh before me – I shall watch all the appearances of Ulva compressa and gather them for you. Perhaps you would like to have those of Ulva dichotoma another very variable species.

The Fucus marked No 10 & which I think from comparing it with your specimen F fruticosus is when recent much more easily distinguished from Fucus cristatus then when dried. On the rocks where it grows, it spreads in tight, curled bushy tufts of a pale olive colour. F cristatus grows in a thick close tuft and has a very stiff straight appearance and even in the blackish cylindrical variety somewhat compressed at the end. When magnified this variety is very like Fucus fruticosus. I am highly pleased that you think my Little Bryum is new. I send you more of it and a good many other mosses, some rare, others that I was not able to make out. The Orthotrichum have puzzled me sadly. Can you give me a specimen of Orthotrichum aristatum & O nudum. You must not say I do not ask you for what I want, how many things have you given me unasked & when I consider how very troublesome my ignorance and curiosity make me I think you very generous & very kind to answer all my questions – I suppose you don't want Fucus Griffithsii. I have found plenty of it at the mouth of a rivulet. I sent you F norvegicas & amphibius – My health though far from good is better than when I wrote last. I am gradually recovering strength & hope to be able to walk much next summer.

Believe me dear Sir your obliged and
very faithful

E Hutchins

Ballylickey Feb 4th 1809

Letter 5

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 18 February
postmark gives the date in Feb, contents give the year

My dear Madam

I have been looking anxiously for a letter from you, & I thought it long before it arrived, but I now wish it had been longer. I fully feel your kindness in writing to me, but I feel also

my own unkindness in wishing or even suffering you to do so at a time when you are oppressed by ill health or by the lassitude which a continuance of ill health necessarily leaves behind it at a period of recovery. I therefore beg you never again to let me hear from you except when you are perfectly well; I shall not indeed be less anxious at the idea of you being otherwise, but I shall be satisfied with myself at not being instrumental to it. It is a hard thing that those who are gifted with minds like yours are seldom blessed with frames of body equal to support the worry of their mental exertions. I lost my poor friend, Mohr, from this sole cause last summer & death has of late made such a havoc among the few whose intercourse was most gratifying to me that I cannot bear the thoughts of endangering another. Let me therefore beg of you to allow me so far to act as your physician, as to prescribe profound repose for your mind as well as your body. Light reading, the bane of most young minds, is what I should recommend to you; not indeed trash, for that would create only nausea, but belle letters & poetry & detached portions of history. You have, in all probability, friends enough at home to say to you what I have already said, & you may therefore possibly think it needless if not impertinent in me to have even mentioned the subject. If so, I am sorry for it, but I really could not feel myself at rest till I had done it; & as, in doing it, I have given the strongest proof of, a desire to mortify, not to gratify, myself, I trust that this consideration will serve as my apology. I am anxious too, to tell you some news of your parcel, for which I know you will be looking out. I have just had news of its arrival in Dublin, quite safe – so far, well; –but what follows is ill, for, from a neglect to mention the two books it contained, it has been seized by the Custom House Officers, & with it, a bale of goods amounting I am told, to £1200 –, in which it was packed. The Collector ?present says it is lucky that they did not seize the ship also; but he adds there is no fear of an explanation's sitting the whole night, & I was too much alarmed on account of the man to whom the goods belonged & too much interested myself not to send one immediately. If Mr Mackay has not yet informed you of his having got it. Will you have the goodness let him know where it is, & to beg him to enquire about it? – the house of Nunn & Co sent it from London. – I have nothing, I am sorry to say, upon the subject of Natural History to communicate to you, except that my bookseller has this moment sent me a new volume of Shaw's Zoology, the first upon the subject of birds, which is very pretty, but very superficial, as every undertaking of this kind must, from its nature, necessarily be. It is, however, better than the last, which was on Insects, & was miserable. If he goes on then the Birds will occupy at least 4 vol. more, & then come the worms, shells & molluscs, with which I am anxious to see what sort of a hand he will make. This latter is indeed an untrodden field, but there is a beautiful paper upon the subject by Col. Montagu in the last volume of the Linnaean Transactions. Mr Dillwyn has given me a sad job. He has just sent me the finishing number of his *Confervae*, containing a general view of the genus, to revise & alter, & his idea & mine coincide so little that I am forced to change at least 4 words in every ten, & this in a work of 40 pages is no trifle. I am sorry to inform you that the beautiful species, which I proposed calling C. hutchinsia, proves to be not distinct from C. pedicellata which is most infamously [possibly text missing here] figured in English Botany. I now wish, with your leave, to transfer your name to No 2. – I should prefer No 5, of the distinctness of which I am perfectly satisfied as being a more elegant plant, but that Dillwyn's figure of C. rosea is so inaccurate (even if taken from C. rosea at all, which I doubt) that, till some alteration is made or explanation given, nobody would believe the two were different. The beautiful Sertularia, that you have sent me on blank paper, appears to be the same as is represented by Ellis in his *Corallines* ?P 28 as a var. of C. pinnata, but is certainly distinct from what generally goes by that name. In return for having done of late nothing in botany, I have read a great deal in other things. The books have not been quite new, tho' wholly so to me. A description of Mount Caucasus, lately translated from the German, is a dry and heavy book, but contains a great deal of information relating to a country of which but little is known, & which much

more is not likely to be known at present. There is in it a considerable quantity of Natural History. Mr Parsons Travels from Scanderoon [now Iskenderun, in Turkey] to Bussora with an account of Antioch, Baghdad etc+, I have also found interesting, not so much for their intrinsic worth, as for the sake of the places they treat of: they do not, however, give by any means a bad idea of them. Dr Warburton's letters to Dr Hurd, now just out*, have pleased me excessively. They are the correspondence of two men of the strongest minds & soundest principles writing in the warmth & confidence of friendship their unreserved opinions of what was going on around them, & they throw a prodigious deal of light upon the literary men & literary history of the day. I was surprised to find how much both of them were pleased with the works of Rousseau & how unreservedly they praise the Nouvelle Heloise. They praise too in the highest terms the Vie de Petrarque by the Abbé de Sade, which I never yet dared to attempt to read. It is in 2 vol. quarto. If you have not seen it I wish I could send you my copy. These books, of which I thought you might like to hear something, have with Dante & Tasso of late employed, dear Madam, your much obliged friend DT

Post stamps have YARMOUTH and BAWTRY ?150 postmark 18FF18 and its date starts 18

*Warburton, William

Letters from a Late Eminent Prelate to one of his friends, second edition

London: T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1809. Second edition. Hardcover. 1809, second edition. 510 pp., index. 2 engraved plates, William Warburton and Richard Hurd. Hardcover, 8vo., Info from googling, on www.commoncrowbooks.com

+ Abraham Parsons

Travels in Asia and Africa; including a Journey from Scanderoon to Aleppo, and over the desert to Bagdad and Bussora;

A Voyage from Bussora to Bombay, and along the Western Coast of India; A Voyage from Bombay to Mocha and Suez in the Red Sea; and a Journey from Suez to Cairo and Rosetta in Egypt.

London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, 1808

Letter 6

Turner to Ellen 21st or 23rd March

That I may not appear in your eyes, my dear Madam, more negligent than I really am, I have stolen for 5 minutes from the friends in my study who have for the last 10 days occupied every moment of my time, & who grumble at my taking even this short furlough. I sincerely wish that you could have been of our party, for I am sure you would have enjoyed it, & certain it is that three men never enjoyed anything more fully than Mr Dillwyn, Mr Hooker and I have done the last fortnight, employing ourselves morning noon & night in putting a finishing hand to the synopsis of the British Confervae. Dillwyn has yielded so far to my representations as to give another fasciculus beyond what he intended, & a synoptic table of all the British species, accompanied with magnified sketches of most, if not of all, those not figured in the body of his work. The doing of this will make it something like a complete work, & I still hope it will be published by the end

of May. I shall employ the other side of my sheet in telling you the names now given to all your doubtful species, & I hope you will not disapprove of what we have done. A thousand thanks to you for the valuable parcel which I received through Captain Mangin. I have a great deal indeed to say to you about its contents, but I must now confine myself to the Confervae alone. Has my vagabond parcel yet reached you? About 3 weeks ago I had a letter from the man who took charge of it, saying it was free from the Custom House, but still in his possession, & he could not find Mr Mackay in Baggot Street, where it was addressed. This I of course answered, begging it might be sent to him at the Botanic Garden, & I hope he has had it long before this time. Yours came most expeditiously; & as the same conveyance is open to us, pray use it again as often as you can. It is a long time since I heard from you, but I trust that ill health has not a share in stopping your pen. I would rather attribute it to any other cause. You must excuse my not answering one word of your letter till I next write, which will be soon, as Hooker and Dillwyn leave me in 2 or 3 days. My Historia Fucorum goes terribly backward among these interruptions, at which I should grumble sadly, but were I not certain that my time could not possibly be better employed for science. M Brown, who was employed for many years as a naturalist in exploring the productions of New Holland, has just sent me his magnificent collection of Fuci to publish, but without permission to take a single specimen either for myself or for my friends. How I wish you could see them! Or that I might even take scraps to send you! These Botanical Divites have no compassion on us Lazars. Mr Hooker wishes me to tell you of the Jungermanniae in your last parcel that No 20 is *J emarginata* - "var. of spinulosa" is right, & differs only in colour from the common appearance of the plant. I must leave the rest of this sheet for the Confervae, & return to my friends who are plaguing me for descriptions of *C hutchinsiae* & some more of your species. I shall not repeat how much pleasure your letters always give me, but merely add the assurance of the regard & respect of

my dear Madam

your most obliged and very
sincere friend and servant,
Dawson Turner.

Yarmouth 21st or 23rd March 1809

Letter 7

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 27th March

My dear Sir

I have been prevented answering your very kind letter by many much less agreeable employments. You have given me the best and pleasantest prescription I have ever got and I only regret that it is not in my power to follow it entirely. but from my anxieties for others, and The (I believe) natural restlessness of my mind, I am not likely to enjoy much peace. I cannot think how you have discovered so much of my temper as to know that quiet and books are what I'm most what I should enjoy. I am much obliged by you giving me your opinion of so many books. I should have great respect for it, but it is of peculiar value in such a country as this where a few people love reading, and of course, you know how to recommend a book to a person inexperienced as I am. you seem to think much too favorably of me & this if you should ever happen to see me must be disadvantageous. I am only more serious & thoughtful than others of my age from having had much ill health & many sorrows. I thank you much for what you mentioned about the

life of Petrarch. I have read it. I have at length got the parcel you sent me safe. It arrived yesterday after many dangers & difficulties. Mr Mackay had a deal of trouble about it. You have sent me a great number of very interesting plants. I had seen but few of them. The Lichens have revived a strong inclination I had to become better acquainted with them. I gave them up in despair being unable to learn anything from Withering. At some future time when any English book is published on the genus I should like to attend to them, at present the sea plants & mosses employ every spare moment I have. Your specimens have taught me I have Lichen Cochleatus [*Leptogium cochleatum*] and laevigatus [*Parmelia laevigata*]; The latter better than yours & I am pretty sure I know where *Parmelia Clementei* [*Physcia clementei*] grows, though I have not gathered a specimen. I shall send a few specimens of some that grow here with the next parcel. I have pustulatus [*Lasallia pustulata*], & many others that I think very pretty, but as I am very ignorant of what is rare or curious, I can't say that you are likely to find them of much use. I hope you have long since received a little parcel I sent you soon after my last letter through Captain Mangin. It contained a few drawings & several specimens. I should like to send another small parcel in the same way if you have got this safe. I have now a few more drawings of the new Confervae & among them No 31 a little plant of very curious & uncommon growth. Perhaps you will think it an *Ulva*. I have drawing and specimens of a very elegant little freshwater species & I shall have a sketch (if I can do so delicate a plant well) of No 13 which is very distinct from *rosea* & extremely beautiful. I only wait till April to get it in perfection. I met with *C punctalis* with capsules last year but I neglected to put any on glass. I have plenty of [text missing] *spiralis*, *nitida*, *decorticans*, [text missing] *myochrous*, & many other fresh water species. Have you seen single seeds n [text missing] & *fucoides*? Can you put a specimen of *C corallina* into a letter for me. I think I have mistaken *setacea* for that plant, & I have a single specimen of a beautiful species that may be *corallina*, if not, you shall have it.— I have just begun to visit the mountains a little & have got some mosses since I sent you the last things. I shall put a few in this letter. Do you want *Dicranum squarrosum* with fruit or *Hypnum revolvens* & *dubium*. I think I shall have *Jung curvifolia* with fruit to send in a little time, I am watching it. I have got *J julacea* or *concinata* with fruit. I cannot tell from the description in Withering which it is & I have also got a morsel or two of No 16 in fruit. I think you will find it very distinct from *pumila*. The fructifications are so very minute & delicate that I should not have found them, but that it grows in a field here where I visited it every day. I have found *Andraea alpina*. *Rothii* is so common that it blackens the rocks in many places. I ought to have some feeling for your patience & conclude this long letter.

I beg you to accept my best thanks & to believe

Dear Sir very faithfully Yours

E Hutchins

Ballylickey
March 27th 1809

Letter 8

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 14th April

Yarmouth 14th April 1809

At length, my dear Madam, my friends have gone, I am enabled to write to you with something more like quiet, tho' quiet is a word that has, or ought to have, no place in my vocabulary, for when it creeps in it is only as a synonym of indolence. I have had, since last

I wrote, the pleasure of receiving from you another letter, the contents of which I probably shall not mention in this, for I think that those of your former parcel will amply fill my paper; & besides, I have not got Mr Hooker's opinion upon the *Jungermanniae*, about which I shall never venture to speak myself till his book on the subject is published. I think I mentioned to you that his present plan is to give merely descriptions of the species, with a leaf of each engraved on wood at the side, & four or five plates of new species. Upon this plan my booksellers have agreed to publish it, but there is now a question how far woodcuts can be made sufficiently delicate to express the beautiful reticulations of the leaves, & if this is impractical, he must once more change his design, all which creates fresh delay. Before Mr Dillwyn left me he altered one or two of the names given to your *Conferva*, but I forget which, & I only mention it that you may not be surprised when you see in his work it is so. I feel myself much obliged to you for so readily meeting my wishes of gathering shells for me. Two or three specimens at most of each kind will be quite sufficient; for, as I think I told you, it is not so much for myself as for my little girls that I wish for them. How much do I desire one day to see you here, & to introduce them and Mrs Turner to you! – With regard to your list of Bantry plants, I certainly should like to see it include the Lichens, as a tribe of which I am particularly fond, but I fear there is no chance of your having for many years to come an opportunity of getting a book on the subject such as may render them intelligible, & this being the case it would be a pity to wait for them. The Linnean Society adjourn next month till October, & if it be agreeable to you, I should wish to have your catalogue about this latter month, which will allow all the summer for your searches, & perhaps in the course of this time I maybe able to send you a parcel of Lichens, which; unfortunately, are not conveyable in a letter. If Mr Borrer would but trust to his own abilities, & publish a *Lichenographia Britannica* without me, I should be very glad. My eternal Fuci make me despair of ever doing it. You mention in your letter *Ulva verticillata*. ? Do you know it? It is a plant of which I never saw more than one specimen which the late Col. Vellely gave me, nor did I ever hear of any other botanist having found it. If you would like to see any specimens of this or of any thing else that I have which is inclosable in a letter I will send it gladly. As for *Orthotrichum aristatum* & *nodum* I fear they are nonentities. The latter I never knew, but always supposed Mr Dickson took it up from some accidental variety of *O. striatum* & the former (confound it) has fled from me ever since I published it. You shall have what I meant for it, but now I find it runs into *O. diaphanum*, so as not to be distinguishable even as a variety. You must oblige me by sending me a complete list of all the mosses described in the *Muscologiae Hibernicae* which you have not, & you will see that I can give you the greater part of them without the slightest inconvenience to myself. Indeed, there is nobody whatever who has so much right to anything from me, & I promise you, nobody to whom I have so much pleasure in giving. I only regret that speaking in mercantile language, you always keep me so much your debtor, & that I have nothing to pay you with, but that which you already fully possess, the unfeigned esteem & regard of your very much obliged Dawson Turner

Polypodium lobatum ? Certainly right

----- *cristatum* variety – this variety is not uncommon with us, but ours has xxxx. I never remarked the fragrant smell before.

Fucus amphibius & *Norwegicus* – both rather different from the plants as they grow with us, & *F. amphibius* much finer. I shall be obliged to you for more of it.

Little plant on *F. digitatus* – I know nothing of it.

**Polypodium nigro viride* ? – I rather suppose it to be *Pterogonium filiforme*, but cannot be sure without fruit.

Dicranum pellicidum – a variety approaching *D. virens*.

----- *osmundioides* & *Hypnum flagellare* – I will trouble you for more of them, particularly the latter.

Bryum nutans – a small variety.

—— *ventricosum* ? & *turbinatum* ? – like ours.

Sertularia? – a variety of *S. volubilis* with the margins of the cups entire; - I have found such here.

Hypnum [paper missing] *ium* – not what I have called so, but a small variety of *H. filicinum*.

**H. abietinum* – This also is not mine, but is quite new to me: – can you send more of it? –

H. serpens ? – the same as ours - one of the most common mosses here.

Orthotrichum No 1 – *O. pusillum* – `No 2 *O. pulchellum* of English Botany.

No 3 & 5 *O. striatum* – No 4 *O. anomalum*

Hypnum No 1 *H. cordifolium*. No 2 *H. serpens* – No 3 * *H. umbratum*.

**Hypnum* No 4 – quite new to me.

No 1 *Dicranum viridissimum* – (it is a *Gymnostomum*)

*No 2 I know nothing like this, except it is possible that it should be a most extraordinary variety of *Anictangium ciliatum*.

3. A curious variety of *Bryum argenteum*.

4. Barren shoots of *Bryum julaceum*.

5. *Bryum carneum*, mixed with some *Dicranum*.

6. *Gymnostomum luteolum*.

7. Variety of *Grimmia recurvirostra*, I think. No 9 *Tortula tortuosa*

8. Barren shoots of *Bryum carneum* ?

[Written sideways in the margin of the plant list sheet]

You see I have again marked with Astericks the plants I wish for more of, still a beggar!

[On piece either side of address panel]

I have lately received a very valuable parcel of foreign Fuci from Dr Swartz, but unfortunately, no duplicates, nor am I allowed to keep any for myself. These, with the New Holland ones from Mr Brown, will extend my work to at least 4 volumes, if I follow my original plan of giving a figure of every one. What an immense tome to look forward to! During the whole of it I must also look forward to the doing of nothing else, not even of the making of a summer excursion, as I wished to do this year to North Wales, but find I shall be too much occupied.

Mr Campbell, author of the *Pleasures of Hope*, has within the last fortnight, published a new poem, called *Gertrude of Wyoming*, a Pennsylvanian tale, too simple, in my opinion, to bear the superstructure of 3 or 4 cantos. Nor do I think that the poetry, which is very strained, & in many places scarcely construable, will add to his form, or justify the opinion of those who mark him above Walter Scott & Southey. He has chosen, too, Spencer's stanza, the hardest in our language to manage well. With it he has reprised His *Battle of the Baltic* & *Lochiel's Warning*, the latter of them terribly mutilated and quite tamed. Do you know these two beautiful poems? If not I will send them to you.

Letter 9

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 9th May

My dear Sir

I have from day to day, deferred writing to you since I sent the last parcel which I hope you have had long since. I now find that what I have since gathered of those

things that you wished for and a few that I had not before sent you are large enough for a parcel by post, and as I always feel impatient that you should have any rarity I meet with I now send them. You will find that I have met with an abundance of Confervae mirabilis & with No 43 much finer than when I drew it. It grows very plentifully in all our rivers. Of what I take for Ulva verticillata I send one specimen, an ill colour'd one. It is sometimes very bright red, but most of those I met with were somewhat injured by being exposed to the air. All the fine ones I have given away. Next August I hope to be able to get more for you. Its magnified appearance is extremely beautiful. I suppose it is a Rivularia but I don't know the character of the genus but its structure is similar to that of R. vermiculata. I feel greatly obliged for all you have mentioned concerning the Confervae and mosses. I think you will find No 8 which has you say been named C. patiens only a variety of C. stricta. It grows in deep water.— Do not you think the little Hypnum No 2 may be different from Serpens. It seems unlike in the shape & disposition of the shoots & leaves both recent & dry. The lid too differs somewhat & the leaves are serrated. I am much obliged to you for the mosses you wish to send me & when I write next I shall tell you what I want. They will be of great value to me as I wish to amuse myself with drawing all our mosses. I hope that you will not deprive yourself of any thing that may be a loss to you for they are of much greater value to you than to me. This consideration makes me always very ready to give & I felt quite pleased when you told me your friends had robb'd you of the things I sent you, as the gathering of a fresh supply will give still greater interest to a pursuit so highly delightful. I hope & indeed feel pretty certain that I shall during the course of the summer be able to collect every thing you wish for from this place. The list of our plants you shall have at the time you mention & I hope to add to those I am at present acquainted with. I am sure I shall have more Confervae & perhaps some mosses. I now write in a great hurry as I am going to the mountains for a few days to a place where I shall do nothing but walk & gather beauties. I fear you will say I have no mercy for you when I tell you that I am highly delighted to hear of the collections of Fuci you have got to continue Hist. Fuc. I am almost tempted to wish you may always find materials to continue it & yet I long to see the end. I just now expect 4 more numbers. My friends say I bother them with asking when they are coming. You are very kind to wish to see me but at present there is I fear no possibility of any thing so agreeable as it would be to me to become acquainted with such a family as I imagine yours — I write in such a hurry I hardly know what I have scribbled for I am in the very agonies of going to the mountains. I hope to bring some things to send you —

Yours very faithfully
E Hutchins

May 9th 1809

I have not read any thing of Campbell's but Pleasures of Hope, the other poems you mention I can make my brother get me in Dublin without giving you the trouble of sending them from such a distance; it is so troublesome to get any thing to this out of the way cranny.

You need not send me Conferva corallina as I have lately got the No of Dillwyn's in which it is figured & find my plant is corallina as I supposed. C. atra is not very rare here. I have this Spring found plenty of C. vivipara. The specimens you sent me have been of great use. Tell me of any thing you want as I intend to be very busy this season. Do you want Jungermannia minutissima? I can get great plenty of it on all our trees. I am longing to have Mr Hooker's book out. If you have Conferva crispata to spare I should like to get a specimen. I have this Spring sought much for C. atro-purpurea, but without success —

Letter 10

Turner to Ellen 14th June

Your last letter, my dear Madam, arrived, as indeed, your letters almost always do, at most auspicious moment; it caught me in London, where I at all times, detest being, but where I was then completely uncomfortable, for I had just parted from my friend, Mr Hooker, who had taken a sudden resolution to sail for Iceland, & pass the summer in that most wonderful of countries. How glad should I have been to have gone with him, did not the ties of business & the still stronger ones of a wife & family necessarily keep me at home. You must excuse me, my dear Madam, from mentioning so much of my domestic concerns, as have been the cause of my not taking a much more early opportunity of thanking you for your two valuable parcels. I really wished & intended to have done so but just after your letter arrived, I was recalled hastily on account of business from London, & on my arrival at home, I found my house in a melancholy state on account of the loss of my infant child, who was carried off by an attack of cholera morbus, so rapid & so violent that there was not even time to apprise me of his danger. My poor wife, who had lost two sons before, one of them by the most distressing of accidents, had fixed her heart upon the life of this, even more than I had, & was quite overcome by a loss, which the enfeebled state of her body made her but ill able to bear up against. I have therefore had great cause for anxiety on her account, as well as for regret on my own, & until I saw her mending, it was impossible to think of anything else, which I hope that your kindness will admit, as but too good an excuse for my apparent neglect. Your two parcels, my dear Madam, reached me quite safe, and I again thank you for them: by tomorrow's post I shall send a small one in return to you, but it can contain scarcely anything, as you have not yet told me what mosses you want. I have transcribed Campbell's two poems, allowed to be his best; for I am sorry to say you will not be able to buy them, as they never were published except in the quarto edition of his Pleasures of Hope, which has long been out of print. I have written them from memory so you must excuse any inaccuracies. Two lines in his Lochiel where the old sage accounts for the second sight of the Scotch by a similitude drawn from the lengthening shadows of the setting sun, have been by able men considered the most sublime things in our language. I recollect, in some lines of his own on painting, one stanza that always particularly pleased me

"No spectre-forms of beauty fled
Thy sweet endearing tints restore;
For thou canst give us back the dead
E'en in the loveliest looks they wore."

You will not, however, thank me for going on about poetry; but I am full of it now, being in the middle of Dante which delights me excessively. Mr Hooker's voyage to Iceland will, I am sorry to say, necessarily retard the publication of his Jungermanniae which he has not begun to print; but will, I hope, in return bring us a rich harvest of plants from that country, all of which you shall share with me. He hopes to be home in September, & then vows he will leave England no more till his own Jungermanniae & my Fuci are completed. I hope indeed he will not leave at all, for I shall miss his society beyond anything, as I should do now, were my mind more at ease. Mr Borrer, for whom I have a very great regard is coming to spend this summer with me. Another of my botanical correspondence, Mr Joseph Woods, a particular friend of Dillwyn's, threatens you with a call at Ballylickey. I envy him, I own. Ill health obliges him to quit London & travel during the summer, & he has determined to visit the southern part of your island. He told me, whether in Jo or not I

do not know, that he should make a point of introducing himself to you, & he asked me for a letter, which I declined giving, not considering myself authorised to take such a liberty. Should you see him, you would be pleased with him as a young man of strong sense & extensive reading: he is also of good family, being nephew to Hoare, the Banker in London. He has been often at this house and promises me another visit immediately on his return from Ireland, that we made together examine the rarities he brings home.

Mr Dickson showed me in Town a specimen of *Phascum alternifolium* which he likely received from Cork, from a Mr Drummond, I believe. Did you ever find it? You sometime ago mentioned having found near you *Bryum conoideum*, & if you have any of it to spare, I will beg a few specimens, as I am frequently asked for it. I shall be grateful too for Jung minitissima, but I will manage mention nothing else, for I am really ashamed, & your liberality supplies me so bountifully that you leave me nothing to ask for. I can only say that whatever you would else throw away, there are plenty of gaping mouths here that will be glad to swallow. *Conferva mirabilis* I was very glad indeed of, for I had only seen a miserable fragment of it before. Does it not come very near, almost too near, to *C myochrous*? I heard in town that Dillwyn's last Number would be out by the end of this month. I long to hear the account of the success of your expedition to the mountains, whence you should have favoured me with a letter which I should have prized more than Mrs Grant's, but I doubt you did not write because I have myself been over late so bad a correspondent. Learning, my dear Madam, in this one respect to return good for evil, it is the only one, I am sure, in which you have occasion to learn it, & it is the one in which it concerns me most nearly for you to practice it. I hope you will oblige me by writing as soon as you can. Into the small packet I shall send by Captain Mangin I shall put the memorandum that I wished to convey to you about your parcels. As you mean to draw the Irish mosses, which I am very glad of, you must allow me to lend such species as I cannot give. My specimens are, unfortunately, all glued on paper, but I will gladly take them off for such an occasion. – Be assured, my dear Madam, of the respect & accept the esteem & regard of Yours ever sincerely

Dawson Turner

Yarmouth 14 June 1809

Nothing can be conceived more beautiful than the exhibition of water colour drawings in London this spring. One of them, by an artist of the name of Heaphy, has sold for 400 Guineas, & 500 have been offered for it to the purchaser. It is a representation of a fish market in which a most lovely young woman is buying fish, attended by her maid, into whose hand an officer's servant is slipping a letter. Billingsgate quarrels make up the group.

Letter 11

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 4th July

I opened your kind letter My dear Sir with much pleasure but was greatly shaken by the account of your domestic troubles. I did indeed feel for you & still more for Mrs Turner's sufferings, pray tell me how she is. I have delayed writing to you until I should receive your parcel which was delayed for a week or more longer than I expected. It has reached me safe, & I thank you much for it, & for the trouble you have taken of quoting Campbell's two beautiful poems. they have afforded me & others great pleasure. I should have written to

you from the mountains had I been successful, but I was most unfortunate in meeting the worst weather & being attacked by my old enemy, severe headache. I did not meet with anything, but some better specimens than any I have sent you of the pretty little Bryum No 4, but still without fruit though I saw it in considerable quantity & saw very young plants too. I fear you will not allow me much merit for wishing Mr Hooker success in his voyage to Iceland, now that you have had the goodness to tell me I should share his treasures. I think, but who could be sure, I should have had as warm wishes for his success without being myself interested. Should Mr Woods come this way my friends will be glad to give him every assistance. A letter from you would ensure him a welcome here.

I have lately met with *Fucus aculeatus* growing & in a very beautiful state. When young the plants are covered with bunches of branched, jointed filaments regularly placed. I shall enclose a morsel for you & on the same paper a few broken leaves of *Fucus phyllitis* in which I think you will find seeds near the ends. The beautiful *rivularia* I sent as *Ulva verticillata* is a rare plant. I hope to have more of it to send you in about a month; I shall try and draw it. *Fucus capillaris* is certainly a *Rivularia*, I shall send you a drawing rather better than mine generally are. Of another *rivularia* I sent as an *Ulva* No 6 I have preserved for you a good supply. *Ulva* No 14 is the same as No 4 in a young state. It does not seem to me to belong to the *Confervae*, though, sometimes in old plants, the end of the branches have rather a jointed appearance. *Conf scopulorum* is not a marine plant. *C mirabilis* seems to me very distinct from *Myochrous*. The specimens I found had I believe lost their dark blue green colour from age. Next year you shall have more. *C Hookeri* is a rare plant. I am not sure that any specimens I sent were distinct from *rosea*, but a few on one sheet in one of the last parcels, the large ones No 19 are certainly *rosea*. I have a drawing to send you of *C Hookeri*. I have more of the varieties of *Hypnum rutabulum* to send. I am very sure that *H umbratum* & *flagellate* are the same plant, they unite by varieties so completely. I have also seen a variety in habit so like *laete-virens* that until I examined it with a microscope I was sure I had found that species. I sent you in a letter sometime ago, just before the last two parcels a great many morsels of mosses. Several of them are new to me, if you can find them I should like to know your opinion & also what you may wish for more of. You must not say you will not ask for anything you wish to get more of, it would deprive me of one of my greatest pleasures. I shall have a parcel to send you very soon when I can do a few drawings I wish to send with it. At present I am rather hurried. Pray tell me if the little plant enclosed is not a species of *Zoresta*. I found it yesterday growing sparingly in the mouth of a little rivet that falls into a lake with which the sea communicates. I am to go to another lake after breakfast this day. If I can find anything that could be useful to you, you shall soon hear. I have not in this letter left myself room to ask for the mosses you so kindly offered, I am in no hurry to get them until near winter as I shall then draw mosses entirely & at this time the sea plants fully occupy me. I have done nearly 76 *Confervae* and a few *Fuci*. My *F kaliformis* is well done. If I can do anything for you pray tell me. Working for oneself is very dull, but to do anything for another person gives one spirit to proceed.

I am just going to begin Dante which I have not read. Believe me My dear Sir very faithfully
Yours

E Hutchins

July 4th 1809

Letter 12

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins - dated July

The postmark is August, so sometimes given that as date, the letter has been badly damaged (possibly mouse eaten) with paper missing.

[at top of first page]

You mention a parcel of mosses that I have not received – I can find none & am sorry to say they can never have reached me, unless some letter that I wrote replying about them has miscarried to you. If you can send other fragments of them, however small, I will do my best by return of post.

You will undoubtedly, my dear Madam, think me a very strange being, when I tell you that I am not without hopes of a Lichenographia Britannica being soon done, & that, so confident are my expectations on this subject, I would even wish you to delay your list of Bantry Plants till next Spring, in the trust that you may be that time be able to add to it some sort of a catalogue of these provoking, but (like some other provoking things) alluring, vegetables. If you enquire upon what foundation these hopes of mine rest, [you will not] be surprised to learn how small it is; for it is, in few words, that Mr Borrer has been with me for the last month, during which time we have literally described two lichens out of four hundred: but then, though we have done no more, we have [laid] the foundation for more being done, & I think I [paper missing] inspire him with such a zeal to do it, as will urge him [paper missing] have confidence in himself, & to overcome the [paper missing] numerous as they are. I feel much [paper missing] ?with our specific xxxting of the genus Gyrophora [paper missing] we have set about the task in earnest [paper missing] ly believe I shall send them in a few days together with some specimens of the species, but as the "when" is now uncertain, I would upon no account have you delay in writing in expectation of receiving them. Our idea is to proceed upon the plan of my Synopsis of the Fuci, writing the specific characters alone in Latin, & all the rest in English, which we are inclined to think will best promote the object we have in view, that of extending among British Botanists the study of British Lichens.

I was very much surprised, just after I last wrote to you, to learn, by a letter from Mr Dillwyn that he intended to accompany Mr Woods in his Irish Tour. To visit Bantry was a part of this scheme, so you have probably by this time seen them; or if not so, you soon will. They neither of them yet written to me since they started, nor have I at present heard from Mr Hooker, which I much more regret, as all his friends begin to feel some uneasiness respecting him. I lately fell by accident upon a paragraph in some review, where Southey's Remains of H.K White were called the sweetest specimen of modern biography. I had not then seen the book, but I have since bought it, & I find it to so well answer its character, that, if you have it not; I must beg of you not to refuse me the gratification of sending it to you. It will, or I am much mistaken, serve to pass not unpleasantly some idle hours, when your headaches [paper missing] should unfortunately return) may disqualify you for [paper missing] application. Southey is a writer that I always like [paper missing] is a great favourite with me, & some of his little [paper missing] beautiful from their affecting tender [paper missing] with which I am acquainted, for the inter [paper missing] in Wieland's Oberon. This I can read [paper missing] I can read nothing else, & I would almost say that it is more [paper missing] learning German to read Oberon than learning Spanish to read Don Quixote though in the one language there is nothing but Don Quixote, & in the other there is abundance of interest. Mr Sotherby's translation is indeed far from a bad one, but it does not give the least idea of the simple playful tenderness of the original. My friend, Mr Matthias, some of whose Italian publications you have probably seen, has just sent me

a new publication of his, which is, I believe, quite a novel attempt for an Englishman; a translation of Mason's drama, called Sappho, into Italian, after the manner of Metastasio, whose style metre & turn of expression he has most happily copied. This, he vows, shall be the last of his labours. Lord Valentia's travels are out, & seem to disappoint expectations. I hear complaints of the style being too familiar, & the anecdotes very trivial in general. How wrong is a man to write a book of which all the world consider themselves competent judges! He is [paper missing] best to be no better off than the painter, who exp[paper missing] his picture in the marketplace two successive days, the one for every beauty, the other for every defect to be marked, & found it each day equally covered. You recollect, my dear Madam, you have not yet told me what mosses you want: – might I not also ask for a list of all the flowering plants which are desiderata with you? – no doubt [paper missing] I could give some, & most assuredly I shall be glad to send all I [paper missing]. You are very kind to enquire in so friendly a manner after my wife & to enter so heartily into our family xxxxx [paper missing] as well as I do: I am happy to add [paper missing] every [paper missing] greatly recovered: I sincerely hope I shall one day have the pleasure [paper missing] making you personally known to each other. I have seen F[paper missing] in the same state in which you sent it: it appears to be [paper missing] so in Spring: I shall be thankful for the specimen you have been kind enough to save for me, as it may serve to be engraved. On your F Phyllitis I am sorry to say I can find no seeds. You cannot oblige me, my dear Madam, more than by continuing to send me drawings of marine plants from fresh specimens: any whether previously figured or not, have the greatest value in my eyes: I only lament thus occupying your time, nor can your liberality, which is unexampled, prevent me from feeling on this head the regret I ought. Dillwyn's Confervae, as you know, are, many of them, very imperfect figures. My own Fuci, done from dried specimens, are in some instances, I fear, not much better: & as for the Rivulariae, which I should hope one day to try to illustrate, they positively defy all investigation after they have been dried. Do let me hear what you say to Dante, & if you find difficulties, do not disdain to apply to me, sorry an interpreter as I am: in this, as in other things, I say,

“Né ch[paper missing] io vi da imputar sono,

Che qu [paper missing] Tasso does tutto vi dono” or rather xxxxx volentieri, if you would [paper missing] ll me what to give. The little plant you enclosed in your last [paper missing] is not xxxxtera, but Potamogeton media. I have filled my [paper missing] that I have hardly left room xxx repeat once my xxx & esteem your obliged D T
Yarmouth xx July xxxx

Notes:

William Mason

'Sappho, a Lyrical Drama in three Acts,' by Mason, with an Italian translation by Mathias, was published at Naples in 1809,

George Annesley, 2nd Earl of Mountnorris FRS (4 December 1770 – 23 July 1844), styled Viscount Valentia between 1793 and 1816, was a British peer and politician.

Christoph Martin Wieland wrote an epic poem, Oberon, in 1780.

Tasso:

“Quel ch'io vi debbo, posso di parole pagare in parte e d'opera d'inchiostro; né che poco io vi dia da imputar sono, che quanto io posso dar, tutto vi dono.”

Letter 13

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 4th September

Your letter my dear Sir reached me about a month ago, & should not have been so long unanswered had I been as well able as I was inclined to write to you. It found me just beginning to recover a very severe attack of my bilious complaint which weakened me so much that until within the last week I have not been able to make any exertion, & during that time drawing and preserving *Fucus Wiggihii*, *asparagoides*, some beautiful *Confervae* & *rivulariae* has so completely occupied me that I really have not had a moment to spare. A few days before my illness I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Dillwyn and Mr Woods here. The former has I supposed reached home before this time. He seemed much pleased with the marine productions of this Bay both plants & shells. I rather think he dislikes Ireland much after England. The comparison between English manners & ours must be very disadvantageous to us, & I fear our Landscape scenery would not appear better contrasted with Wales. I was very happy to share my collection of sea plants with Mr Dillwyn & he seemed highly delighted.

It gives me great pleasure to hear what you have been so good as to say of the probability of an English work on lichens. I am quite impatient to begin. I did attempt them before with Withering but soon found that I could not proceed without better assistance. I shall be very glad to send you whatever I can get. I shall send some specimens in a parcel that I intend to make up for you in a few days. I have more specimens ready to send you and a few drawings. In winter I shall have many drawings to send you as I shall then copy some that I have now. This summer I have been both too ill and too idle to draw. I have not done anything but read, walk and talk with a brother who has been at school in England and who I have not seen for some years until he came to spend this vacation from [Trinity] College with us. I have been so happy with him when free from pain that I hardly regret idling. I shall copy drawings of six or seven beautiful *Rivulariae* for you. Next season when I get a better glass I shall do sketches more highly magnified than those I have at present. I hope you will find the natural size drawings pretty accurate. I beg you will not feel any regret at employing my time in doing anything you wish for. I live an extremely retired life, next to complete seclusion, & in such a situation it is rather doing me kindness to excite exertion. I have been drawing all our *Confervae*, as many of Dillwyn's plates seem to me very inaccurate: in many of them the manner of growth of the complete species is ill represented: general re[~~text missing~~] is not I think sufficient to please in [~~text missing~~] minute, & that require close inspection. His magnified parts are more accurate. Of those of our *Fuci* that I am able to judge of *Dasphyllus*, *kaliformis*, & *clavellosa* only seem ill represented. I have pretty good drawings of each of those species, would you like to get copies? I think too that the natural size of *F Griffithsii* is not very good. I hope you will at some future time publish the *Rivulariae*: they are of all things what I am most passionately fond of. That beautiful species I sent you as *Ulva verticillata* I have very lately met with again. You shall have many specimens, though it is a rarity, and a drawing when I have time. I have got specimens and drawings of a *Fucus* of which I once sent you the only fragment I had seen, very like *laciniatus*, but certainly a distinct species, its fruit & substance prove it so. It is somewhat different too in colour & mode of growth.— I shall put in this letter a sketch of the fruit of *Fucus edulis*, perhaps you may not have seen it. The tubercles seem placed in the substance of the leaf between the two coats, & fibres spread from them. The seeds separate between the coats, & then have somewhat the appearance of scattered seeds. How they escape I cannot see. The surface of the

frond seems covered with very minute perforations, but I could not be sure that seeds get through them.

Southey's Remains of H K White I have never seen. I feel very sensibly your kindness in wishing to amuse me by sending it. I shall be very happy to have & value it as another proof of your kindness added to the many I have already had. I cannot tell you how much obliged I am for your letter nor how much gratification it has given me. May not Lord Valentia's travels to be very interesting & yet disappoint expectation. Too much is generally I believe expected. You shall very soon have a parcel from me. I have found some new *Confervae* since I sent you the last. I am sorry you did not find fruit in *F. phyllitis*. I thought I saw clusters of long pear shaped seeds near the end of the frond. I have been called again & again to breakfast & have written in such a hurry I hardly know what I have said. I can only be sure that I always feel your truly obliged & faithful

E Hutchins

Ballylickey, September 4th 1809.

Dante delights me horrible as he is though I only read the English translation – Your *Rivularia vermiculata* is I am inclined to think not the same as my plant. I am anxiously collecting shells & hope to have a tolerably good collection of natives for you, probably as many species as any one shore produces. We have many very beautiful small shells. Mr Dillwyn liked them very much. I have got *Fucus pedunculatus* but almost entirely destitute of those beautiful green tufts that add so much to its beauty.

Letter 14

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 12th September

I cannot tell you, my dear Madam, how much pleasure I have received from the letter that has been brought me from you this evening. I am striving to afford you the most indisputable proof of my pleasure by answering it immediately. Indeed I have for two or three weeks past felt very anxious to write to you, but I have not dared to do it, for I was persuaded from your long silence that you [text missing] unwell, & I was apprehensive that, by showing my anxiety, I might possibly cause you to exert yourself in writing to me before you were well able to do it, & thereby retard instead of promoting the recovery I so much wished. I am much obliged to you for your kindness to my friend, Dillwyn, whom your goodness made exceedingly happy. He is returned to England, having left Mr Woods ill at Mucross, from whence I understand he has but lately been able to set out by slow stages. He (Woods) has not written to me, nor indeed had I ever much acquainted with him; but I have long been upon the most intimate footing with Dillwyn, whose talents I respect, & whose goodness of heart I sincerely value. Since his return he has been so hurried that he has told me nothing about his Tour, except his general route, & what refers to Ballylickey, with which I assure you he is in the highest degree gratified. If I may judge of his feelings from what I myself experienced on my return from Ireland I should have no scruple in saying that he has also been pleased with the rest of his journey. Irish manners are certainly in some degree different from English, nor will I so far dissemble any native prejudices as to say that I in all respects prefer theirs to ours, but really do in many, for you have a cheerful openness of disposition & a liberal hospitality, even to strangers, which, I am sorry to say, are in vain sought for on this side of the channel. Were I not writing to a lady, I would say that the Irish females are beyond all comparison superior to those of any

other nation I ever met with in[~~text missing~~] charms of their conversation & the amiableness of their manners. I will not however allow to be true what my honest friend, Clemente, has, in the bitterness of his heart, published of England, which I will transcribe for you, but not translate; he is speaking of the inhabitants of San Lucar whom he calls "pueblo franco y generoso, cuya viveza y genial cordialidad hacia en mi idea un contraste tan fuerte con la sombría estupidez y egoismo feroz de la insolente plebe que acababa de ver á las orillas del Támesis." Poor fellow, I pity him; for his moorish appearance & long beard at once betrayed the foreigner, & foreigners, as you know, do not meet with the best treatment in this island. -

Mr Dillwyn's last fasciculus which closes his work, is just out: it is done better than most of the rest, tho I still think you will have no reason to feel much pleasure at the manner in which his artist has copied your drawings of C. Hutchinsia, C. Pedicullata, or C. brodiaei. Either self love blinds me, or my engraver has done more justice to your F. tomentosus, which stands at the head of my third volume. Soon after I last wrote to you, Mr Borrer was called from me by the unexpected illness of his Grandmother, so that all the hopes of our projected Lichenographia were nipped in the bud, but he returns to me next week, when I shall again apply to the task with spirit, & about the middle of October I shall have the opportunity of sending you thro' Mr Mackay a parcel of Lichens which may be of service to you in your future study of the genus. Do not, I beg of you, trouble yourself to make me a single drawing till you are quite well; but, when you are so & have nothing better to do, send/make[~~text missing~~] me copies of every one you have. Is not this begging by wholesale[? ~~Text missing~~] Believe me, however, I would not do it to a person I less esteem. You are quite right in saying that Dillwyn's plates are in general [~~text missing~~] that my clavellus, kaliformis, dasyphyllus & pry[~~text missing~~]thria are far from what they ought. **For ?they ?are** I shall therefore be particularly thankful for copies of your drawings, perhaps, if I ever grow rich, & do not grow covetous at the same time (which is but too common a consequence of acquired affluence) I may one day be tempted to give my purchasers a new plate of clavellus which is really execrable. How can you read Dante in English? It is really murdering him to do so, & you are not one of those whom I thought it necessary to tell.

ché, seggendo in piuma,
in fama non si vien, né sotto coltre;
sanza la qual chi sua vita consuma
cotal vestigio in terra di sé lascia,
qual fummo in aere e in acqua la schiuma.

I have an admirable small edition, lately published in London, with a most happy selection of notes, & I could easily send it to you if you have not a good one, without which I know that Dante can neither be read with pleasure nor profit. Thank you for your sketch of the fruit of F. edulis; it makes me doubtful whether what I have figured [~~text missing~~] be really so: if they be, they must be in a very imperfect state. All these things will form material for an appendix to my work. Your new Fucus, I hope, will occupy a place in the body of it. You have never yet told me what mosses it was that I did not name for you: send me all in which I can be in any wise useful to you, remember that our communication by Captain Mangin is both easy & sure. I think you said you had found Bryum conoideum at Ballylickey - was it so?; or did you, as is often done, take Dicranum viridissimum fruit? We have no news of Mr Hooker. Oblige me by writing, when you receive this if only two lines to say you are quite well. - I am with esteem & regard my dear Madam Your much obliged & very faithful
DT

[A cross hatched piece of 9 lines.]

Surely my dear Madam, if your brother is at an English College, & you might be spared to cross the Channel with him, & might pass with us one term while he is at Oxford or Cambridge. If he could not himself accompany yourself to Yarmouth where we should be very glad to see him Mrs Turner would meet you wherever you pleased. I know I am treading on delicate ground in thus inviting a lady to my house but I do it in the full confidence that you would find in my wife a friend similar to your own & capable of appreciating your talents & acquirements nor it is possible for any family to live more thoroughly respectably xxxx xxxx than we do. From our friends Captain & Mrs Mangin than whom the world does not know more xxxxx or more upright people your friends may xxxx xxxx of all that relates to our family.

This section still to be finished.

Letter 15

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 14th September

At length my dear Sir, I have made this little parcel that I have often wish'd you to have. The Lichens it contains are not I suppose of any value & I rather send them to enable you to judge what this country is likely to produce than with any hope of their being useful. When I can learn to see my way I hope to do some thing more for you. The mosses I send are the same as those that were in the letter that never reached you. I now trouble you with the list of such mosses as I wish to have or borrow for drawing. I shall take good care not to injure your specimens. Do you want Dicranum rufescens I can give good specimens. You wish'd to know if I had met with Phascum alternifolium, I have not seen it nor have I found Bryum conoideum. A specimen from Mr Mackay misled me. His is your Dicranum viridissimum. Should you wish for more of any of the marine plants in this parcel pray let me know. I have more specimens of the greater part of them to spare. I shall very soon copy the drawings of the Rivulariae that I have and send them to you. Should you desire to have drawings of any of the plants that you know to grow on this shore pray let me hear that I may have the pleasure of doing them for you.

I have plenty of Fucus aculeatus in the state I now send. Do you know the fruit? I have not been able to find any thing like fruit tho' I have examined a great number of plants.

Has Mr Dillwyn returned to Wales? I long to know how he likes his Irish tour. I fear he felt disappointed in his expectations of finding new plants.

Believe me My dear Sir you very faithful & obliged
E Hutchins

Sept 14th 1809

[many crossed out in a different ink, probably Turner as he selected specimens to send to Ellen.]

Phascum crispum, patens, curvisitum & muticum

Grimmia stricta, alpicola, nuda & Dicksonii

Pterogonium sciurioides

Trichostomum rigidulum, heterosticum, fasciculare & microcarpon

Tortula rigida, *subulata*, *apiculata* & *ruralis*
Dicranum Tamarindifolium, *undulatum* with fruit to draw it. I have it without fruit.
calistomum, *subulatum*, *Celsii*, *purpurascens*
Polytrichum strictum & *gracile*
Neckera curtispindula
Bryum conoideum, *androgynum*, *triquetrum*, *obtusifolium*, *aureum*, *Zieri*, *compactum*,
bimum, *cuspidatum*, *roseum*, & *undulatum* - I have plenty of the latter without fruit
Hypnum pulchellum, *nigro-viride*, *medium*, *Teesdalii*, *riparian*, *protensum*, *adnatum*,
velutinum, *intricatum*, *atro-virens*, (I have without fruit) *lutescens*, *piliferum*, *Thuringicum*,
aduncum, *palustre*, *dubium*, *filicinum*.
 I have no doubt that *H umbratum* & *flagellare* are the same species. It varies some times
 so as to resemble *H laetevirens* in habit. I was quite sure I had found the latter until I saw
 the leaves magnified. Do you wish to have more of the many appearances of this species?

Letter 16

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 9th October

My dear Sir, I have just washed the pencil [small hair brush] that finish'd drawing *Fucus kaliformis*, before my heart and fingers cool I shall send it with the few other drawings this little parcel contains for you. Tho' the *Rivulariae* are not ready to go with them, as I intended, they shall soon follow. I hope most warmly that the little I now send may give you pleasure. Ought not *Fucus Wiggii* to reside with the *Rivulariae*? What an exquisite little beauty it is! I am very glad you think of giving a new plate of *F. clavellus*, I have no fear that increasing riches will have much affect on a mind such as I take yours to be, as to prevent your putting your thought in execution. How or where my dear Sir could covetousness find a place in a mind that enjoys the beautiful gifts of nature as yours does? The present plate of *clavellus* quite hurts me every time I look at it. That there should be any thing so bad in so fine a work is very vexatious to all those who delight in it as I do.

The engraving of *Fucus tomentosus* is I think rather better than the drawing. How I wish that Bursa grew here that I may watch for the fruit. I believe the *Fucus* I sent you in the last parcel No 12 is the same as your *reniformis*. It is rare here. I had not seen your plate when I sent the drawing of specimens - your & Mrs Turner's kindness on wishing me to visit you is highly gratifying to my feelings. I only regret that it is not in my power to take advantage of your kindness to become personally acquainted with you & her would be the highest pleasure to my mind indeed I should have all the advantage on my side for you would not find me what you seem to think. You have a much higher opinion of me than I deserve & if we should ever meet you will be quite disappointed. Is it not wiser to preserve your good opinion and stay quietly in the mountains. Much as I love the mountains if I were not so bound to home I believe I should be tempted to go see you at all risks but I cannot gratify myself with thinking of it, no mother of 10 children is more bound to home than I am to this little spot by the increasing years & infirmities of my Mother & the ill health of a brother who has lost the use of his limbs. They both depend almost entirely on my exertions for their amusement & health. I ought to ask your pardon for troubling you with so much of my domestic affairs. I am extremely happy to find that Mr Dillwyn was pleased here & that I had any thing that could interest him. We all liked him very much for the little time we had the pleasure of his company. I hope you have heard of Mr Hooker's safety. I see by the newspaper that there had been communication from Iceland lately. It gratifies

all my national feelings to find that you like the Irish so well. Most English people dislike us greatly & I fear we are not in general more generous to our neighbours. Some merits we must have & surely it would be a narrow mind that could deny what we deserve because we are not advanced to such a state of cultivation as you are. Indeed you allow us all or more than I believe we deserve –

I felt reading the translation of Dante as if it were as you say murdering him but I do not understand Italian well enough to read the original. I began to learn & was interrupted, however I intend to return to it as soon as the days become dark & gloomy. I cannot do better this winter than employ part of it in acquiring knowledge of this language. At present the delightful softness of the weather tempts me out & the garden requires care & preparation for winter. With us 'parting summer lingering blooms' delay long. We have flowers till the frost comes after Christmas & even then we have little frost. I cannot think of giving you the trouble of sending me your Dante, but I would trouble you to tell me whose edition it is, that I may know how to enquire for it at some future time if I should be able to read it. I fear it requires more accurate knowledge of Italian than I may be for some time able to acquire without any other assistance than my own exertions with books. I should have written immediately on receiving your letter as you so kindly wished had I not written with a parcel a few days before I received it. I am now very well & strong much better than before I had the last severe bilious attack. I hope you have before this time received a parcel I sent you safe & that you were pleased with what it contained. I now send a few specimens more of some kinds I thought you would like. I expect soon to send you some new Conferva, fresh water species, there are some very delicate ones growing near me, but until I get a new microscope I have just sent for, I cannot draw them. I now greatly regret that I had not a better microscope to do the Rivulariae for you. Next year I will do them as highly magnified as I am able & I shall very soon send you copies of the drawings I have now done the natural sizes. I hope you will think them good. Accept my dear Sir my best wishes for your & Mrs T's happiness & believe me faithfully yrs
E Hutchins

Letter 17

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 26 or 28 October

My dear Madam

Having nothing to tell you that may make a letter interesting, I would fain not trouble you with one, but I think it right to do so, for the sake of letting you know that about a fortnight ago I sent you thro' Mr Mackay a considerable parcel of British Lichens, which I flatter myself you will find of service to you in the investigations of this beautiful family. They were left at Mr Sowerby's to be called for by a Mr Terrier, who intended going about that time to Dublin, so I hope they will soon be in your hands, & if they be not so I will thank you to make inquiries about them. The name assigned to all are those of Acharius, whose generic character I will with pleasure transcribe for you, if you do not already know them. The two leading ones, Carmelia Mecidea(?), embrace the sentellate(?) & the tuberallate(?) Lichens, & are distinguished by the fruit of the former having a margin of the substained(?) of the frond, while in the latter the margin of the shields is like the Disk. L. Subfuscus & parasemus afford familiar & satisfactory examples of the two. Both the genera contain crustaceous(?) & foliaceous species. You received, I trust, in safety the mosses I sent you

thro' Capt. Mangin almost immediately after you let me know what species were desiderata with you. I have ever since been looking daily for a letter from you. H K White accompanied the Lichens, but I did not send Dante, because you had not told me whether you wished it or not. Mr Sowerby has been with me, making drawings for English Botany, but both he & all my summer friends have now left me, & I am beginning to fix into my winter habits of study & solitude, when your letters will be doubly more valuable to me than ever. I have yet heard nothing from Mr Woods, not even whether he is returned or not; nor has Dillwyn written to me for an age. Mr Hooker begs me to call your attention again to the Jungermanniae, which he is going set about tooth & nail. I try hard, but in vain, to persuade him to commit to paper what he can remember of all he saw in Iceland, & print it for the satisfaction of his friends, who are never likely to have an opportunity of feeding upon stock fish & rancid butter & egg boiled in the Geyser. It is, I think, most likely that he will go there again next summer, unless political affairs should take such a turn as to prevent him. I write in haste, which is convenient for a man who has nothing to say, but you, I know, will pardon both my hurry & sterility & will believe me not the less sincerely my dear Madam Your much obliged friend, Dawson Turner.
Yarmouth 28th October 1809

Letter 18

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 2nd November

My dear Sir

I have been practising self-denial by not writing to you since I received your last letter & the parcel of mosses. I wished to attempt to express my thanks for them both & have delayed to do so until I could make up this parcel. I now must warmly thank you for your kind & interesting letter giving such a pleasing & at the same time, awful account of Mr Hooker's escape & sufferings. Now that he is safe at home, I think his situation quite enviable, few have lived after having felt despair so complete or known with what degree of regret this world could be quitted. I am truly glad he has escaped to enjoy life after having passed through such a scene. It makes one shudder to think of it yet, I think I should like to know what it was to feel as he felt. I have often wished to be at sea in a storm, when escape was thought impossible. Do not pray laugh at me. I am sure Mr H would, for I dare say he may have no desire to enjoy another fire at sea. No person ought to regret the loss of his collections considering the circumstances, yet one cannot help feeling somewhat for the loss of his drawings. After your account of the miserable poverty of the Icelanders, I thought with pleasure on the comforts & comparative riches of those poor people in our mountains, whom I used to think in a wretched state. You have sent me a great treasure of mosses for drawing, enough to employ me for a considerable length of time. I beg you will not attempt to take any more of your own specimens off their paper for me. I hope that a small parcel I sent you the very day your letter arrived has long since reached you. I now send the drawings of Rivulariae that I have so much wished you to have. I hope it may be as much pleasure to you to see them as it was to me to do them. Though I am not at all satisfied with them, they are not sufficiently magnified. I have now a better microscope on the road from Dublin & next summer, I shall be able to do you more highly magnified sketches. I now send some more of the mosses you wished for & some I had not before sent together with some Jungermanniae. Let me know what you wish for more of. Dicranium rufescens you will I hope find very distinct from varium. Its serrated

leaves & upright capsules distinguish it. You shall have a copy of my drawing soon. It seems to be difficult to separate D rigidulum from varium.

I am glad the beautiful little Conferva No 54 is new, what name have you given it? No 51 is I am quite sure distinct from rivularis. It is extremely abundant in all our rivers and rivulets in Spring. When I can find it again, you shall have a drawing. I am less sure that 53 is distinct from rivularis though I rather think it is. It seems to grow only where fresh and salt water meet. I do not clearly understand rivularis. I believe I have never seen the true plant of Ulva No X. I have not at present a drawing, but next May when I can find fresh specimens, you shall have one. I greatly wish you may be able to separate Fucus No 12 from F reniformis, were it only to gratify your desire in naming it after Dr Scott. Since you last heard from me, I met with the two specimens in this parcel. They are the very best I have seen, when fresh the frond seems formed of two coats with gelatinous substance between them. I shall soon have some more Lichens to send with those you wish for. I shall also have a drawing of Fucus fruticulosus to send you –

Mr Mackay thinks that the little plant I sent you as Spargula nodosa is not that, but that it is either Spargula subulata, or saginoides. He was not quite sure which, as he had not time to examine it sufficiently when he wrote. It cannot be Sagina procumbens I think. I believe I have Utricularia media, but not in flower. Minor is the only species common here. Mr Mackay writes me that the parcel you have sent me is on its way. I expect to have it soon. My dear Sir I have written & made up my parcel in such a hurry before breakfast that I hardly know what I have said. I always feel so important to send any thing I can find that I can hardly bear to delay for a day – I hope the drawings of the Fuci you asked for reached you safely –

believe me very faithfully
yours

E Hutchins

Ballylickey
November 2nd 1809

Letter 19

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 12th November

My dear Madam

By some provoking delay, for which I am unable to account, your letter, though dated so long ago as the 9th of October, did not find its way to Yarmouth till the night before last, & as I am sure you would be glad to hear of the safety of what you sent me, I lose no time in acquainting you with its arrival, although I believe that you are at this very moment, no less than three letters in my debt. You see that I, who am of all men alive the most remiss as a correspondent, am, like most other people, who are conscious of their feelings, heartedly glad of an opportunity to boast of my punctuality, but in so doing, I am very far indeed from wishing to insinuate that I consider the balance as at all equal between us. On the contrary I feel & own myself in every sense of the word infinitely your debtor, & not least, for the beautiful set of drawings contained in your last packet. I never in my life saw anything that pleased me better than the Conferva equisetifolia, & the Fucus kaliformis is so little inferior to it that I feel more than half tempted to have it engraved. F dasphyllus is certainly not exactly like the plant as it comes here, for it never has that bright colour nor is it ever equally large with us, & E clavellus, I am concerned to say, does not altogether meet my idea of the plant, about which I fear I

am grown unreasonably & absurdly fastidious by looking at my own wretched figure which I have fully determined to replace as soon as I can by a good one. F Griffithsiae, asparagoides and wigghi are excellent. The latter of these plants puzzles me sadly, & sets at nought all my ideas about the generic difference between Fuci & Rivulariae, for its stem has the texture of those & its branches of the second. In such a dilemma, que faire? Tis sadly plaguing, that such things should be allowed to exist to perplex us, poor naturalists. While you send me such drawings as these I shall go on eternally begging, & shall cease to ask you for plants. The Rivulariae thus done will be particularly a treasure, for you know that when once dried they never recover: it is a pity indeed that your microscope is not one of the best. This makes me still more wish you could be here & use mine, tho' I acknowledge with pleasure that the reasons you give against coming at present to Yarmouth do too much honour to your head & your heart for me to attempt to urge a single one in opposition to them, & yet I trust I may be allowed to hope that in the course of next summer, such a temporary Lieutenant may be found for you at Bantry as may allow you to favour us with your company. I forget whether I told you in any of my late letters that your Fucus No 12 is the variety b of F laciniatus, to which species I had referred it upon poor Scott's authority, but had afterwards expressed doubt similar to yours, if it did not rather belong to F reniformis. As this plant appears to be unknown to you, I enclose a morsel of it, which, however poor, will give you some idea of it, & is moreover, I am sorry to say, the whole of it that I have now to send. Have you yet received my packets of mosses and lichens? At your leisure I shall be very glad to hear that you have done so. I find that Mr Hooker has saved, what I did not expect, the first 10 days of his Icelandic journal, containing the account of his journey to the Geyser. I have prevailed with him to add to it, whatever else he may recollect, & to print (but not publish) it for the amusement of his friends, among whom you will allow me to insert your name as far as the procuring of a copy for you goes, [illegible] be continued only in manuscript, I will take care you should see it. I wish I could find time to rewrite my own Scottish journal, & I am not sure I should not print it in the same way to give away among my friends, through I assuredly will never exhibit myself to the public, while I have the use of my senses, as the author, either of a tour, a novel, or a poem. In the course of last week, I had the pleasure of hearing of you through Mr Leach, whom I accidentally met for a few hours in Norwich. it was our first meeting and I was pleased to see the zeal with which he is prosecuting natural history. I have not yet heard if Woods is returned, nor can I get word from Dillwyn, who, I am sorry to find, is fretted by the ill usage of a man with whom he was connected, & is likely to be engaged in lawsuits. With the conclusion of his Confervae, he seems also to have concluded his care for botany. Mr Leach told me that Woods would certainly publish his tour, & if so, I think it probable he will soon come to Yarmouth to compare his mosses with my collection. I do not say how glad I shall be to hear from you, nor with how much esteem I am

My dear Madam, Your much obliged.
D Turner.

Yarmouth, 12th of November 1809.

If you can form any judgement from these wretched scraps of F reinformis pray tell me if they can be the same as your No 12, which otherwise I should be very glad to publish as a new species with the name of poor Scott, who first found it, and say under it all I know of his short & simple history. He is a man whom I would fain not have go down

"To the vile dust, from when he sprung,
"Unhonoured and unsung. –
Unwept, I am sure he will not be.

Letter 20

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 27th November

Two specimens (one was stitched) to the top of the page

No 55

No 56

Your letters My dear Sir at all times, give me very great pleasure, at the site of your last I was quite agonised and eagerly to open the seal. I had given up the parcel as lost & feel highly pleased that has reached you & that you liked the drawings. You must not cease to ask for such plants as I can save for you because I send drawings. I shall send both with the greatest pleasure until you are well acquainted with everything our rocks and shores produce. I am sorry the drawing of *F. clavellus* does not exactly accord with your idea of the plant. When Spring presents fine fresh specimens of the plant in its varying appearances, I shall again attempt a representation for you. I can do every variety until you are pleased, for I must please you in this plant. The drawing I sent is very like one appearance, so like that, a poor little country girl, who I employ to bring one of my boxes, and assist me on the rocks, saw it, and put her fingers to the paper to try if she could not take up the plant. The drawing of *dasyphyllus* exactly represents the colour & growth of the plant as we have it. I have specimens larger than the drawing. I would not draw from an unusually large plant. Here it is very fine coloured bright red with orange shades & a little green. When in decay it dries purple-ish. Mr Dillwyn observed the fine size of my specimens. I never saw the porated appearance in more than one specimen & then it was very faint. *F. Wiggii* does seem very puzzling yet I think I could wish for the existence of a few more such puzzling varieties. Is not the texture of the stem less to be regarded than the fruit which from your figure seems exactly similar to those of some. There is something in its appearance to the naked eye that seems more to approach the nature & habit of those plants than any others I have seen. How like is the slight curl of its terminating ramuli to those of *F. capillaris*, which of our plants seems its nearest relation. I must examine it very carefully next year as I have now a better microscope than the one I have hitherto made use of. Do you wish for more specimens I got several last Autumn. I have just heard from Dublin that a parcel I sent & which you ought to have had long since, had not been sent as soon as I expected. It contained drawings of various *Rivulariae* which I hope you will like though the magnified parts are not what I could wish, nor was I able to see so as to understand the fruit at all. The natural sizes are I believe good & next season I intend to pay great attention to these plants & send you better magnified drawings done with a better microscope. Since I have got it I have done nothing but draw and examine *Confervae*. I have five new ones, at least they are not described in Dillwyn whose conclusion I have just got. Of these you shall soon have sketches. I have specimens of *C. mirabilis* much finer than you have yet had from me. I find that *C. muralis*, *scopulorum* which by the way is sadly figured, & *myochrous* belong to the same curious family. I have them all. I think they all have the double connection at the sides & ends of the filaments. I have *distorta* connected lengthways. I have a very delicate new one of this family – *Rivularia angulosa* grows here I have just found it.

I have examined as attentively as I was able your bits of *F. reniformis*. I rather think number 12 distinct from it. I cannot feel certain much as I wish it on account of your desire of naming it after your friend. I have sent you in this last parcel the very best specimen I

found. I hope you will be able to make it distinct. It is certainly very unlike what you have sent me. What makes me uncertain is your figure of the old specimen in fruit. I think if it belongs to that with the small leaves mine can hardly be distinct though of larger size. I found a specimen with fruit, not unlike your figure, but larger. The parcel which contains mosses & the drawings you will I hope receive about the same time as the letter I wrote with it. It being delayed accounts for your not having had answer to your letters which were too kind & valuable to be neglected. The parcel of mosses you sent me I received long since & the Lichens are now in Cork from whence I shall very soon have them.

Mr Mackay writes me that the little *Spergula* I sent you is the same *S saginoides* which was first found in Britain by his brother on Ben Nevis. He has sent me one of his brother's specimens to compare with my plants. I think them the same. Do you wish for more of it? I enclose morsels of three of my new *Confervae*. No 55 is a beautiful little branched one full of capsules. It grew on *F loreus*, & 56 in a mountain river. Its pellucid colourless filaments terminate in most beautiful bean shaped capsules unlike any thing I have seen & very curious I think. I am quite delighted to hear that Mr Hooker will continue his journal and let his friends have it. You were very good to think of me. I shall you may be sure feel highly pleased to have a copy. I wish you could find time for your own Scottish journal. It would be quite delightful for your friends. Any thing intended for one's friends must I think be much more interesting than if it were intended for the public.

I have lately found plenty of *Hypnum piliferum* do you want to have some? I think I sent you specimens of *Jungermannia* No 16 with fruit. It is very difficult to get it in that state. I watched it every day for a fortnight until I found it in an inflated state. The flowers are very minute. You have *minutissima* very fine in the parcel. I ought to be ashamed of the length of this letter.

I have lately had the pleasure of a letter from Mr Dillwyn. He said Mr Woods had taken a long ramble & lived among the poor mountaineers on potatoes & some milk. He expected him at Swansea on his way home. He spoke as if he had not found many rare plants. Mr Leach seemed very zealous & active pray tell him if you see him again that I have taken his advice & got "*Montague on British Shells*" & that I believe I have a new *Patella* [limpet]. I have now many more species than when he was here. I am gathering for you but I will not send you any for some time as I am only just beginning to learn & should have more & better to send by delaying for a little time. Believe me my dear Sir your ever obliged EH November 27th 1809

Letter 21

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 22nd December

[above the start of page one]

So near Christmas, I cannot but make my letter the bearer of my most ardent wishes for your health & happiness for many many years.

Your parcel, my dear Madam, which was sent off from Ballylickey so long ago as the 2nd November, is just arrived in safely at Yarmouth, & I know too well how much pleasure this information will give you to lose any time in conveying it to you by the most expeditious means. If you [are] but half as much pleased as I am, you will be very much so indeed. I

can truly say I do not know how to thank you for the drawings as I ought to do: I never saw any equally beautiful, nor had I, before, any idea of the plants they represent; for the Rivulariae, as you know, suffer more by pressure than any other family of Algae, & never afterwards recover as they ought to do. I should probably have done more wisely in letting a day or two pass before I wrote to you; as in the interim I might have leisure to look at the other contents of your parcels which I have not yet opened the greater part. I however feel too much pleasure to suppress it, & do not stop to consider what would be best, but, as soon as I have time to look at your mosses, which I will do my first leisure moment, I will write you a full account of what I think of them thro' Captain Mangin, who is returned to Dublin, & has I trust, before now sent you scraps that I took the liberty of scrawling to you just as he was leaving my house. He is a man for whom I entertain the highest personal regard, considering him, as I do, one of the best men alive, tho' certainly as far removed from a Naturalist as it is possible to be. In my haste, my dear Madam, to thank you for your parcel, which makes me at this time so happy, I have almost forgotten a letter I had the pleasure of receiving from you dated the 27th November & containing two Confervae widely different indeed from any I ever saw. What a pity it is that Dillwyn has finished his book on the subject & closed it so resolutely that, like the book of the Wizard Michael Scott, it may never again be opened. If I have your permission, I shall give your plants to Dr Smith to be published in English Botany; or else, when you oblige me with drawings of them, I will make them the subject of a paper myself for the Linnean Transaction. Dicranum rufescens I will examine carefully. About rigidulum I fear you are right that it is hard to separate it from varium. Having mislaid your specimen of the little Sagina, I must beg of you to send me another piece in a letter thro' Captain Mangin, & I will examine it much more attentively than I did last. I shall also like to see a morsel of your Utricularia media which is immediately distinguishable from both other species by having its ultriculi placed upon separate foot stalks, instead of growing mixed with the leaves. Mr Dillwyn brought it home with him from Ireland, but has not told me from where he gathered it, instead he is so involved in law & harassed with squabbles that I cannot now get a word from him. I forget whether I have told you that Mr Woods is home, & that I have had a letter from him, in which he says his health is mended by his expedition but complains of his want of botanical success. He [illegible bit] expresses himself still undecided whether or not he shall publish his journal.

When Mr Hooker comes to me, I shall in all probability know more; as he has been for the [illegible / faded] weeks in London excepting a few days which he passed at Oxford, comparing his Jungermanniae with the Dillenian Herbarium. I shall thank you for some specimens of Hypnum filiferum, which has served me almost like Dicranum rigidulum. Alas I wish I had time to be again about the mosses, which after all I like better than any other branch of botany. I must conclude, my dear Madam, for post-time is come. Let me beg of you again & again never to apologise for any thing in your letters but shortness: you really couldn't do so, if you did but know how much pleasure they always afford to my dear Madam Your much obliged friend and faithful servant Dawson Turner.

Yarmouth 22nd December 1809

Letter 22

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 31st December

(wrongly dated in pencil as 31 October 1809)

If I have been tardy, my dear Madam, beyond what I either ought to have been or intended to have been, in sending you the opinion you wished upon the different plants contained in your last parcel, impute my delay, I beg of you, to any other cause than intentional neglect, & of this alone believe me to be incapable. The real cause has been a multiplicity of business, besides which I have enjoyed during the last week the society of my friend, Mr Hooker, & have been glad to give up to him all the leisure I could spare from my necessary employments. He has been at Oxford, comparing his *Jungermannia* with the Dillenian Herbarium, which done there is no obstacle to his completing & publishing the work as soon as possible, except that his bookseller is not disposed to let it appear before the end of the year, under the idea that it will not sell till Winter. In the mean time he seems determined to run to Iceland, & to accept an offer made him by Count Trampe, the Danish governor of the island, whom he brought with him a prisoner to England. Our government will send the Count back in April, when he proposes to Mr Hooker to give him a passage in his ship, to accompany him all over the island, & afterwards to bring him back to England in September. This is an opportunity he ought on no account to let slip, as no better could possibly be had for seeing the island, & his having been there before will be a prodigious advantage. I have, as usual a favour to beg at your hands. (I seldom write to you, my dear Madam, without such being the case, so that I may fairly be called interested in wishing our correspondence to be brisk.) – it is that you will make me a drawing of *Fucus aculeatus* for my *Hist Fuc* as I have no specimen fit for the purpose & the plant does not grow here. I would further beg to have it as soon as you conveniently can, & to have it sent by Captain Mangin that it may travel expeditiously; for, in proportion as my work draws towards a conclusion, I feel the more anxious to have all the materials before me. Have you yet got the lichens that Mr Borrer & I put together for you? & do you recognise among them many as natives of your own neighbourhood? I shall be glad to be informed that they have proved serviceable, in enabling you more easily to distinguish the species found in the vicinity of Bantry. To return, however, to the object of my writing, your parcel, of which I can give you little more than, what our late Bishop, Dr Horne, said of Hume's philosophy, a doubtful solution of doubtful doubts.

Dicranum rigidulum only *D varium*

Dic rufescens the true plant, & I believe, a good species.

Riccia fruticulosa ? Right; but Mr Hooker says he will make it a *Jungermannia*.

Grimmia No 1 & 2 – only *G apocarpa*.

No 3 – Of this I must beg of you to send more, & if you can, with the peristomum for Mr Hooker & I cannot make it out. It is very different from *G crispula*.

Tortola No 1 - This also we cannot make out.

No 4 & No 5 *T cuneifolia* & *rigida*, as you say.

Jungermannia No 21 *Jungermannia pallescens*.

22 *Jung scalaris* ? Mr Hooker feels doubts about this because it is not in fruit.

24 *Jung xxlata* ? The doubt arises from the unusual size.

25 & million 26 both *Jung concinnata*.

Hypnum subtile ? Not so, nor anything I know – pray get more

No 5 we fear you are right in your suggestions that this may possibly be a variety of *H molluscum*.

7. I shall be glad of more; it seems a fine new species.

11. This is, it appears to me, not the same as you gave before as *H fluviatile*, but is only a variety of *H filicinum*.

12. *H abietinum*? We are still unable to make this out. It comes near *praelongum*.

13. *H praelongum* & *Swartzii*, mixed.

15. – imperfect, as you say. May it not be *H pulchellum* ? It is not what Mr Mackay sent me as *H ?reptens*

Bryum No 2 variety of *B elongatum*, I think.

A Mr Eagle, with whom I am slightly acquainted, has just sent me drawings & descriptions of about 50 mosses, intended, I have no doubt, for a *Muscologia Britannica*, in which, I suspect, he wishes me to join him, but I shall decline it. There are very few persons with whom I should choose to publish conjointly, & these drawings do not tempt me. They are but little magnified, & all green, capsule, peristomium, operculum & all. I would give Five Guineas willingly to have an opportunity of showing you the drawings of mosses I have from Mr Hooker & of comparing them with the plants themselves in your society. What a pity that the interchange of parcels is so difficult between us that I dare risk nothing which it would not be possible to replace. I finished my letter just as the clock is preparing to strike the end of 1809 & beginning of 1810, & when I consider how much advantage & pleasure I have during the course of this year derived from your correspondence I feel the value of it most forcibly & sign myself with more than usual warmth of esteem my dear Madam your obliged friend Dawson Turner Yarmouth 31st December 1809

Madeline Hutchins
December 2024